

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 88

By Reedy

A RESOLUTION relative to the display of the tactile Braille American flag in the new legislative office building.

WHEREAS, the tactile Braille American flag permits the blind to see and enjoy the American flag and serves as a valuable teaching and learning aid for instructing blind students how the American flag appears to the sighted; and

WHEREAS, the tactile Braille American flag was created by Randolph Cabral, founder of the Kansas Braille Transcription Institute, in honor of his father, the late Jesus Sanchez Cabral; and

WHEREAS, the elder Mr. Cabral was a decorated U.S. Army Air Corps veteran who bravely served his country in eastern Africa, the South Pacific, and northern Europe during World War II; and

WHEREAS, following the war, Mr. Cabral became a family man and raised eleven children; and

WHEREAS, ten years prior to his death in March 1998, Jesus Sanchez Cabral became blind due to glaucoma; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanchez was especially saddened that blindness robbed him of his ability to post and fly the American flag on his front porch, a duty he cherished as a patriotic American; and

WHEREAS, in February 2008, the elder Mr. Cabral's military service and patriotism and the younger Mr. Cabral's ingenuity and public service were commemorated when the U.S. Congress unanimously authorized placement of a bronze monument of the Braille American flag

at Arlington National Cemetery as a tribute to blind veterans of all wars and other blind Americans; and

WHEREAS, the tactile figures in the upper left corner of the Braille American flag are the stars, which represent the fifty states and are arranged in nine rows in alternating clusters of six and five; and

WHEREAS, the long smooth horizontal lines represent the red stripes; the end of each stripe is embossed with the Braille dots 4, 5, 6 followed by the lower case "r," indicating the color red; and

WHEREAS, between each of the representations of the red stripes are the long raised textured areas representing the white stripes; the end of each stripe is embossed with the Braille dots 4, 5, 6 followed by the lower case "w," indicating the color white; and

WHEREAS, there are a total of thirteen stripes which represent the original thirteen American colonies of England which became the original thirteen states of the new independent republic; the Pledge of Allegiance is embossed in standard font English literary Braille code over the smooth red stripes; and

WHEREAS, the American Braille flag is displayed by literally thousands of sighted and blind civilians, veterans, veterans hospitals, memorial parks, elected officials, schools for the blind, and in many other places; and

WHEREAS, an emblem of compassion and creativity, the tactile Braille American flag is a valuable tool and powerful symbol for more than thirty million blind and low vision Americans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the tactile Braille American flag be displayed in the public lobby or lobbies of the building that will house the offices and meeting rooms of the General Assembly beginning in fiscal year 2017-2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the director of Legislative Administration.